

F-4-89

Smith-Rensburg Farmstead; "Neighbors Content"  
Middletown vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1812-1925

The Smith-Rensburg Farmstead, or "Neighbors Content", as it was known until about 1920, contains a two-story brick dwelling with five bays and a bracketed one-story porch built about 1830, a stone and log springhouse with an inscribed 1812 datestone with the initials of Henry Smith, the owner of the farm from 1804 to 1824, a brick and frame bank barn of about 1825-1850 possibly built by a subsequent owner, Samuel Rensburg, and a frame wagon shed/corn crib of the late 19th century. The brick architecture of the house and the bank barn are good examples of their types and periods. The bank barn is one of two identified in the Middletown Valley, the other being the dated 1856 barn at Old Needwood (F-2-64). The Smith-Rensburg barn has wheat sheaf pattern vents in the end walls. The house plan is a simple central hall type with flanking parlors and a rear wing. Evidence on the brick exterior end wall of the wing indicates that a projecting bake oven was once present and removed in the early 20th century.

F-4-89  
Smith-Remsburg Farmstead  
Middletown  
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:  
Rural Agrarian Intensification, A.D. 1680-1815  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Domestic/secondary structure/kitchen  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn  
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE   yes   xno

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Smith-Remsburg Farmstead; "Neighbors Content"

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 7604 Marker Road    not for publication

city, town Middletown   x vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Frederick

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> x occupied	<u>  </u> x agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>  </u> x building(s)	<u>  </u> x private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<u>  </u> x private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> x yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  </u> x not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name David R. & Marcia B. Montgomery

street & number 7604 Marker Road telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code Md. 21769

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1699

street & number 100 W. Patrick St. folio 1080

city, town Frederick state 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date    federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. F-4-89

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 5

The Smith-Remsburg Farmstead is an agricultural complex centered on a circa 1830 brick dwelling with a dated 1812 stone and log springhouse/summer kitchen, a brick and frame bank barn possibly built in the second quarter of the 19th century, a concrete block milk house of the first quarter of the 20th century, and a frame wagon shed/corn crib built during the last quarter of the 19th century. The farmstead is located on the west side of Marker Road about 1/4 mile north of the Bidle Road intersection near Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The dwelling is set back from Marker Road and faces east. The brick barn is prominently visible at the edge of Marker Road and the other outbuildings are arranged between the barn and the house, including several non-contributing modern agricultural outbuildings. Among these are a concrete block dairy barn and three silos.

The dwelling, which was dated by title research and the presence of the corbeled cornice and a Greek Revival mantel, has two sections, a two-story main section with five bays and a flemish bond east elevation and a two-story rear wing with a one-story shed addition covered with modern vinyl siding. The principal section has a center entrance with a four-light transom and a one-story frame porch with brackets and chamfered posts, probably an addition of the third quarter of the 19th century. The door is a three-paneled type with its upper panel glazed, probably replacement of the late 19th century. The windows are 6/6 with gauged flat arches and wood sills. Louvred shutters flank the windows. The cornice is corbeled brick, a feature of buildings erected between about 1820 and 1850. The roof is covered with composition material. Interior end chimneys rise at the north and south elevations. The north and south elevations and the rear wing are in 5:1 American bond and the west end of the rear wing shows a patched section where a projecting bake oven rear wall was removed. The north and south elevations each have two bays with two attic windows near the gable peaks. The attic windows are 2/2. On the south elevation of the rear wing is an open, two-story porch with square posts. The wing has four bays with alternating doors and windows. The wood lintels are plain. The interior of the house has a central stair hall flanked by two parlors. The mantels in each parlor have been replaced, the north parlor having a Greek Revival style mantel and the south parlor having a circa 1950 rebuilt mantel and surround. The south parlor has molded window and door surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks. The north parlor has a built-in cupboard flanking the mantel, and a modern bathroom partitioned off near the west side of the room. In the hall, the stair closers are scroll-sawn in a simple design. The rear wing has a dining room with a built-in cupboard and a molded chair rail. In the modern kitchen is a closed-off cooking fireplace and a winding stair to the second story. The frame shed addition to the wing contains a pantry. The second floor of the house has grained wood trim and 6-panel doors.

Springhouse: The springhouse has a stone lower level and a log upper section covered with german siding except in the north gable where beaded clapboards, probably the original siding, is intact. At the northwest corner of the stone section is a stone inscribed with a panel surrounding the initials "H S" flanking heart above the date 1812. The heart motif is repeated in the gable of the log section as a vent opening. "H S" is undoubtedly Henry Smith, who was the owner

## 8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-89

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1812 - 1925

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Smith-Rensburg Farmstead, known until the early 1920's as "Neighbors Content" after the original 180-acre tract surveyed for Andrew Smith in 1790, is a good example of the vernacular brick architecture of dwellings and bank barns in the first quarter of the 19th century, with a mostly unaltered plan featuring twin parlors flanking a central hall. The brick bank barn with decorative vents is one of two brick barns of the German type identified in the Middletown Valley. The other barn is a dated 1856 example at Old Needwood (F-2-64). The Smith-Rensburg barn may date from the second quarter of the 19th century. The elaborately carved datestone on the springhouse and the complexity of spaces and finishes in the log upper level suggests that it was the original dwelling of the farm, used until the brick house was finished. The son of Andrew Smith, Henry Smith, left his initials on the datestone. In 1831, the farm was sold to Samuel Rensburg, whose descendants owned the property until 1925, when it was passed to Martin S. Beachley, a nephew of the last Rensburg owner. Mrs. David Montgomery, one of the current owners, is a descendant of the Beachley family. Samuel Rensburg may be responsible for the building of the brick barn.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-89

Beachley, Mrs. M. Richard, telephone interview, June 24, 1992

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.

Land Records of Frederick County.

Riemensburger-Ramsburg or Remsburg Genealogy, undated, Frederick County Historical Society

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acresQuadrangle name Middletown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 64, Parcel 132.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date June 1992street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCE  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2021  
514-7600

7.1 Description (Continued)

from about 1804 to 1824. The log section has two bays on the north with a four-panel door hung on strap hinges. The windows are 6/6 with molded frames. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. The interior of the log section has wide board floors, a molded chair rail, and plastered walls. A tongue-and-groove partition creates two rooms. The lower stone level has two rooms with a cooling trough running through both rooms from the spring just north of the foundation. The south room has a large cooking fireplace and the exterior stone and brick chimney is located on the south gable end. The finish and complexity of spaces in the springhouse suggests that it may have been the first dwelling structure in the farm, used while the brick house was being built.

Bank barn and milk house: The large brick and frame bank barn was probably built between 1825 and 1850. The brick end walls in 5:1 American bond have vents in the shape of wheat sheaves or hour glasses. On the north elevation are sliding tongue-and-groove doors, which replace the probable original swing doors. The roof is corrugated metal over wood shingles. Next to the ramp on the north side is the concrete base of a silo which has been removed. On the south elevation, the stall level is walled with brick. On the east end is a frame enclosure sided with german siding, the original milking room, an alteration of the first quarter of the 20th century. On the west end of the barn is a concrete block tractor shed, a later 20th century addition. The vertical sided forebay above the stall level has a loading door below a projecting dormer in the approximate center of the elevation. Adjacent to the east end of the barn and at the edge of Marker Road is a one-story concrete block milk house built in the first quarter of the 20th century. It has a standing seam metal roof and metal casement windows.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed with corn cribs was built in the last quarter of the 19th century. It has vertical siding and sliding doors on the north elevation with a roof covered in both pressed metal and standing seam metal.

Smith-Rensburg Farmstead  
Frederick County

SURVEY No. F-4-89

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882. Vol. 1, p. 377

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

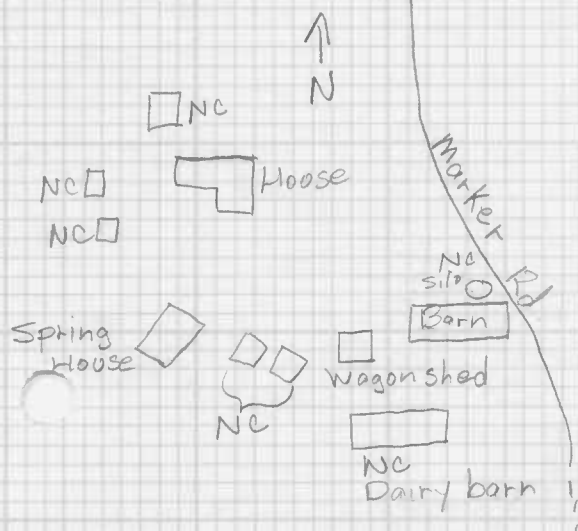
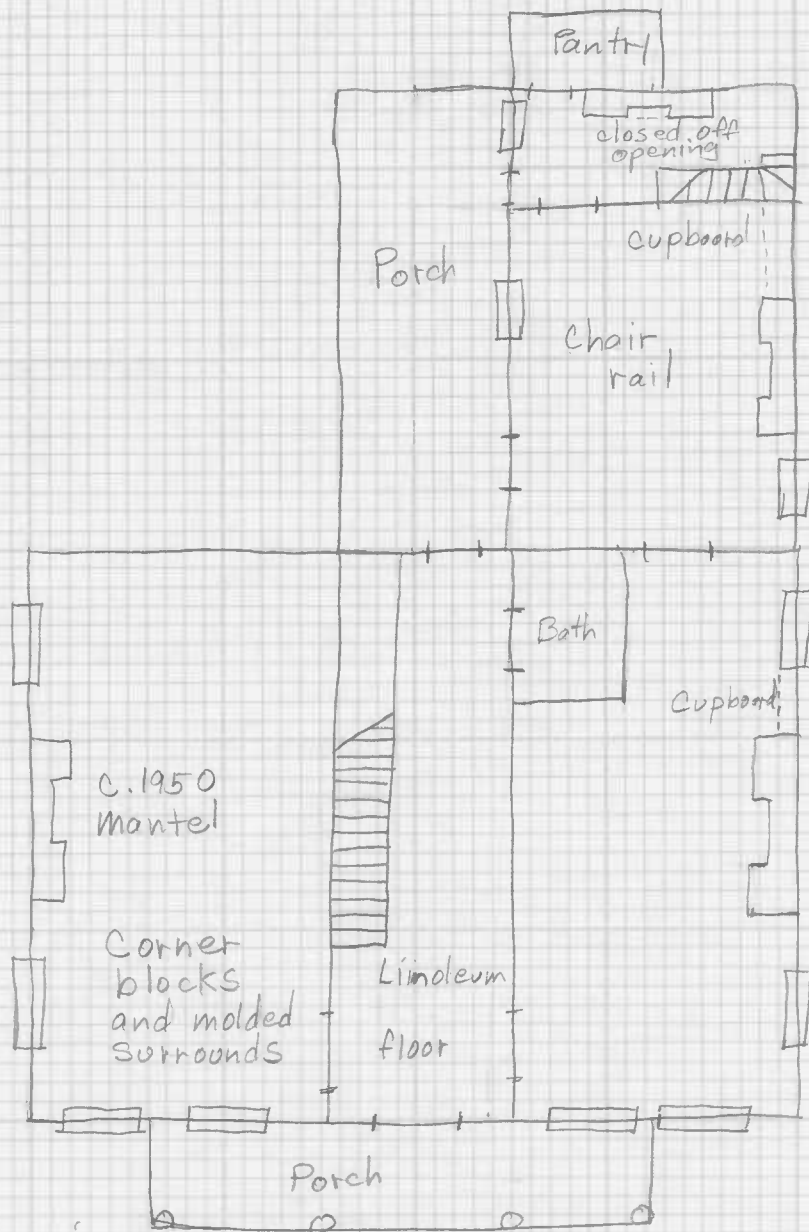
Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, Vol. 2, p. 1174.

7604 Marker Rd.

LIBER/FL. NO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1699/1080 2 Apr 91	David R. & Marria B. Montgomery	M. Richard Beachley	<del>164 1/2 A.</del> 166.77A.	\$400,000	
653/716 1 Apr 61	M. Richard & Char- lotte K. Beachley  (Charlotte K. died 30 Mar 71)	Charlotte V. Beachley, widow	164 1/2 A.		
354/348 29 Aug 25	Martin S. & Charlotte V. Beachley  (Martin died 26 May 53)	Hiram E. Rensburg & Emma M. Rensburg	164 1/2 A.		
Will Book AMP 1/373 will date 12 Feb 01	Hiram E. Rensburg	Singleton E. Rensburg  (Singleton died 15 Apr 21)	see also Will Minute Book GES 1/254 7 Apr 25	bequeathed to wife Frances, all children incl. Hiram E. & grandchild Martin S. Beachley	
			Home farm called "Neighbors Content" bequeathed to Singleton by his father Samuel Rensburg (will date 11 Jun 1880)	son of dec. daughter M. Virginia Beachley wife of Martin H. S. Beachley	
Will Book JPP 1/7 will date 11 Jun 1880	Singleton E. Rensburg	Samuel Rensburg  (Samuel died <del>ca</del> 10 Aug 1880)	164A. @ #60 per A. "Neighbors Content" 2 mountain lots 1 secretary	J. PP 1/7	
<del>Will Book Inventory)</del> <del>JPP 1/220</del> JPP 2/557 (Sale) JPP 1/364 30 Aug 1880			JPP 1/35		

F-4-89

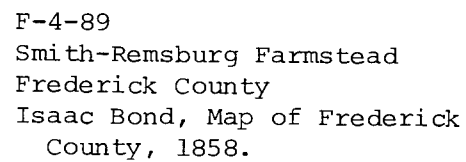
LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
JS 35/514 11 Apr 1831	Samuel Remsburg	Jacob Smith	"Neighbors Content" Certificate of Resurvey executed for Andrew Smith 25 Nov 1790 180 A. - 17 1/4 A. = 162 3/4 A.	\$6,000	
JS 32/595 15 Aug 1829 (sale actually took place 3 Apr 1824)	Jacob Smith	Israel Ramsburgh trustee in Equity # 8 Mar 1824, to sell real estate of Henry Smith, dec.	"Neighbors Content" 180 A.	\$7,290	
Will Book 1 Nov 1804	Henry Smith son of Andrew	Andrew Smith			



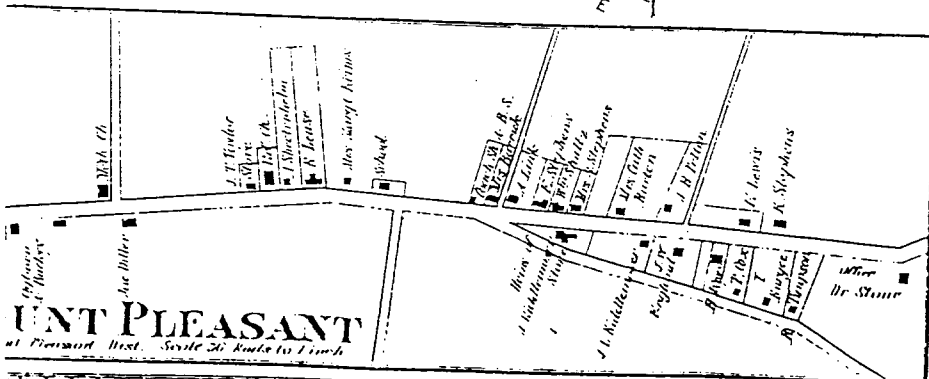
F-4-89  
Smith-Rensburg Farmstead  
Frederick County

Janet Davis  
June 1992

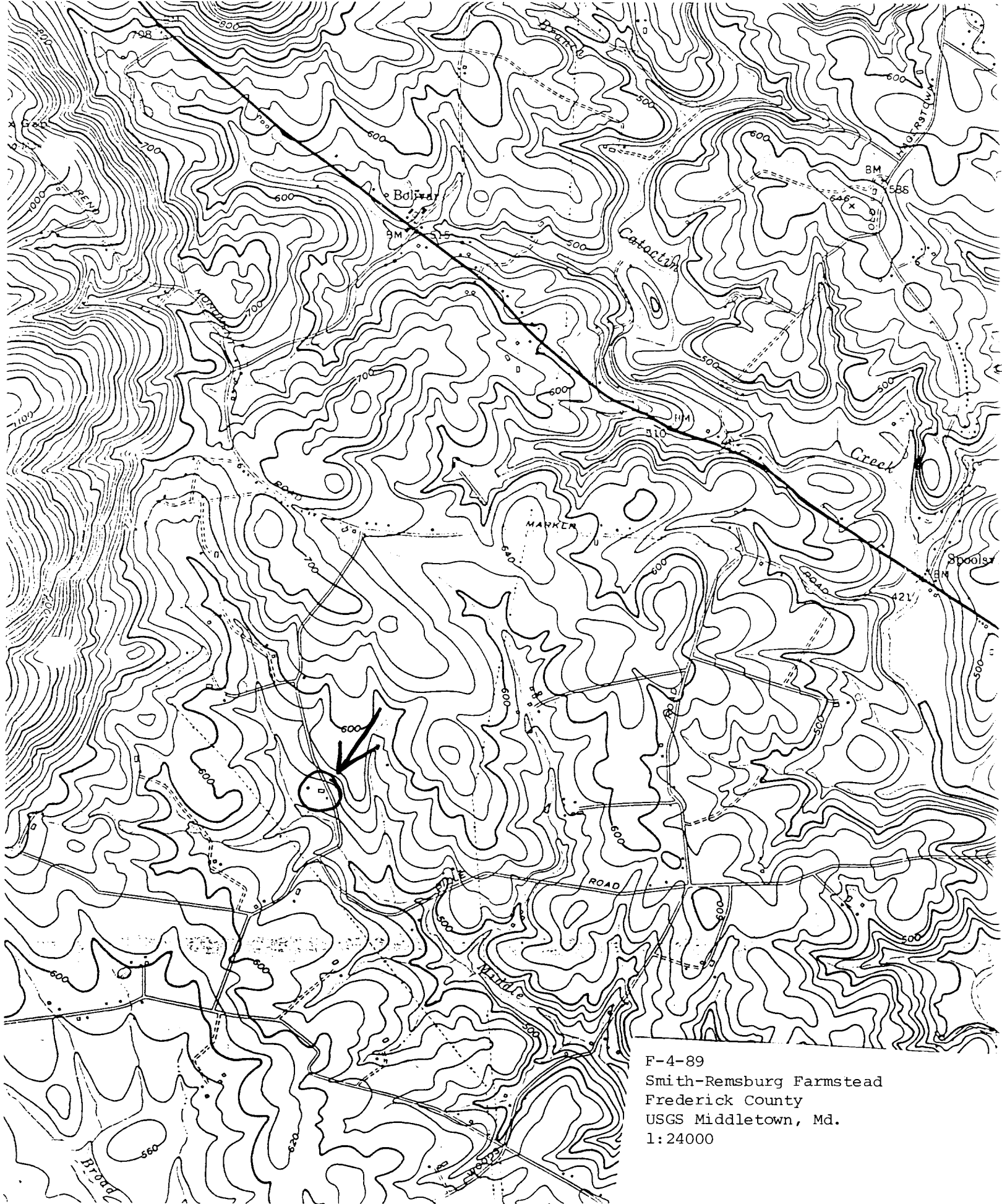
Not to Scale



Scale 1 1/2 Inches to the Mile



F-4-89  
Smith-Rensburg Farmstead  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
County, 1873.



F-4-89  
Smith-Remsburg Farmstead  
Frederick County  
USGS Middletown, Md.  
1:24000



F. 489

Smith - Remsburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

North east corner view

1/7



F. 4-87

Smith-Rensburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO: Crownsville, Md

South elevation

2/7



F-4-89

Smith-Remsburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

North porch mortar

3/7



F-4-89

Smith-Rensselaer Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO: Crownsville, Md

-Springhouse, north elevation

4/7



F-4-89

Smith-Rensburg Farmstead  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville Md  
Bank born. north elevation

5/7



F-4-89

Smith - Remsburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO. Crownsville Md

Bank Barn, south elevation

6/7



F-4-87

Smith-Remsburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville Md

Wagon shed, northwest corner view

7/7